

BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We must eliminate the bureaucratic red tape and excessive regulation that stifles homeownership. Unnecessary governmental regulation adds 20 to 35 percent, thousands of dollars, to the cost of a new home according to the National Association of Home Builders.

I am pleased to join with my good friends and colleagues, TOM CAMPBELL, JACK METCALF and JON FOX to incorporate legislation Mr. CAMPBELL has previously introduced to reduce barriers to affordable housing.

The Act requires all Federal agencies to include a housing impact analysis with any proposed regulations to certify such regulations have no significant negative impact on the availability of affordable housing. Local nonprofits and community development groups are given the opportunity to offer alternatives if it is found that the rule would have a deleterious effect on affordable housing.

REVERSE MORTGAGES FOR SENIORS

We must preserve and protect opportunities for senior citizens to remain in their own homes near their families and friends. The American Homeownership Act makes the FHA-insured reverse mortgage program permanent. A reverse mortgage offers sometimes the only tool to for "house-rich", "cash-poor" seniors to remain in their own homes by providing extra income for living and medical expenses or crucial home repairs. We also will require HUD to prohibit financial entities from charging senior extortionate fees when obtaining a reverse mortgage in response to allegations to fraud and abuse within the program last year.

HOMEOWNERSHIP OPTION IN FEDERALLY-ASSISTED HOUSING

The American Homeownership Act of 1998 will allow families receiving rental voucher assistance under the Section 8 program to use those funds in a properly structured homeownership program that would help them buy their own homes. Residents and public housing authorities are authorized to use funds normally used to pay rents for either downpayment assistance or toward mortgage payments.

HOME, HOME LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM, HOMEOWNERSHIP ZONES

The most innovative tools for expanding homeownership opportunities are being created at the state and local level. The American Homeownership Act creates a HOME Loan Guarantee program to allow communities to tap into future HOME grants for affordable housing development. HOME is one of the most successful Federal block grant programs, and is designed to create affordable housing for low-income families. The Act also provides grant authority for use in "Homeownership Zones"—designated areas where large scale development projects are designed to reclaim distressed neighborhoods by creating homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income families. Flexibility is also granted in defining metropolitan areas to allow greater homeownership opportunities for suburbs affected by the high home prices of nearby cities.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING

More and more families are living in manufactured homes than ever before. The days of trailer parks filled with metallic shoebox-shaped "homes" are gone. Many of today's manufactured homes are multi-sectioned with

vaulted ceilings and state of the art appliances. They are also very affordable for more than 18 million Americans—\$40,000 to \$70,000 for a new, multi-sectioned manufactured home, compared to \$158,000 for the average new home.

I am pleased to join with my colleagues BOB NEY, KEN CALVERT, DAVID MCINTOSH and others in including legislation we previously introduced to reform and modernize the Federal manufactured housing program.

The American Homeownership Act of 1998 promotes the quality, safety and affordability of manufactured homes by ensuring uniform standards and codes for construction across the country. The legislation improves the Federal management of the program by establishing a consensus committee of consumers, industry experts and government officials to advise HUD on regulation enforcement.

HOUSING ON INDIAN LANDS

I am pleased to join with my colleague Mr. REDMOND of New Mexico to include in this bill an Indian Lands Status Commission which will develop recommended approaches to improving how the Bureau of Indian Affairs conducts title reviews in connection with the sale of Indian lands. Receipt of a certificate from the Bureau of Indian Affairs is a prerequisite to any sales transaction on Indian lands, and the current procedure is overly burdensome and presents a regulatory barrier to increasing homeownership on Indian lands. This Commission is charged with providing Congress with methods to address these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this homeownership legislation recognizes that the strength of our Nation lies in its individual communities, and that federal government policy should be encouraging and fostering, instead of hindering, the efforts of localities and individuals to achieve the American dream of homeownership.

HONORING REVEREND BRAXTON BURGESS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Reverend Braxton Vincent Burgess of Flint, Michigan. On Saturday, May 30, the congregation of Flint's Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church will honor Reverend Burgess for the many contributions he has made to our community.

Reverend Burgess earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio and continued his education at Payne Theological Seminary where he received his Master's of Divinity. To continue his mission of peace and social change, he received a diploma in urban ministry from the Urban Training Center of Chicago and served as a member of President Carter's White House Council on Arms Control.

In 1967, Reverend Burgess was ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Since that time he has committed his life's work to providing spiritual guidance and counsel to countless individuals. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Flint, Past President of the Greater Flint Association of Christian Church-

es, and a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Genesee County, Reverend Burgess has been a highly effective leader. His dedication to ensuring that everyone is afforded a quality education is evidenced by his tenure on the Advisory Committee for the Mott Adult High School Continuing Education Program.

Reverend Burgess's tireless service and deeds have earned him recognition from various groups such as the Flint Optimist International, Western Michigan University's Black Studies Department, the State of Michigan House of Representatives, and the Flint Chapter of the NAACP, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting an inspirational individual, Reverend Braxton Vincent Burgess. He deserves our thanks for a lifelong commitment to making our community a much better place.

TRIBUTE TO HERB AND SHIRLEY CANE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Herb and Shirley Cane for their devoted efforts to improve the quality of life in our community.

Herb and Shirley have played an instrumental role in leading the Jewish community of the San Fernando Valley. Their continued community activism demonstrates a commitment to the further enhancement of the organization to which they have already dedicated so much valuable time and effort.

Herb Cane's relentless and unselfish dedication to the Jewish community has set the foundation for many growing Jewish youth programs. After his term as the first president of the Kadima Hebrew Academy for two and a half years, Herb headed the committee that would establish Kadima as an independent community school. In addition to this effort, he was also greatly committed to the fiscal stability of the young institution. Herb has served on the advisory and grant selection committee of the Ann Zatz Memorial Fund and the B'nai Brith Youth Organization. This organization has provided yearly scholarships for youth leadership training in Israel.

Shirley has also shown a great commitment to expanding the Jewish community in the San Fernando Valley. She played an integral role in founding the Honor Chapter of B'nai Brith Women in Canoga Park and presided over the Honor Chapter for a period. Shirley is a past president of Kidney Infection Needs Detection (K.I.N.D.) and served on the Cedars-Sinai Liaison Council. In addition to these roles, she has also held executive positions on the board of Congregation Beth Kodesh, the Congregation's Sisterhood and served as President of Friends of Kadima. Shirley is currently serving on Kadima Hebrew Academy's Board of Directors. As a tribute for her hard work, Congregation Beth Kodesh awarded her with the Sisterhood Chayah Olam Award.

Married for thirty-five years, Herb and Shirley are the founders and main supporters of the Stacey Cane Youth Theater, named after

their daughter whom they lost to breast cancer. Their continued support of the Shomrei Torah Synagogue is greatly appreciated as it continues to successfully expand into the next century.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Herb and Shirley Cane. They have shown an unwavering commitment to the community and deserve our recognition and praise.

ROBERT W. GENZMAN IN
MEMORIAM

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body tonight to express my deep sadness over the death of Robert W. Genzman, one of the finest individuals I have ever known. Bob Genzman passed away in Orlando on May 12, 1998. He left a legacy of public service and accomplishment that will serve as an example for many in the years to come.

Bob Genzman received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.S. degree from the London School of Economics, and in 1977 a J.D. from Cornell Law School. Following law school Bob spent 2 years as staff counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations as one of several attorneys assigned to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy. He participated in public hearings and wrote and edited substantial portions of the Committee's final report. Later he spent several years as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Bob Livingston.

From 1980 to 1983 he was Assistant United States Attorney in Orlando. After entering the private practice of law, Bob was tapped in 1987 to take a leave of absence from his law firm and serve as Associate Minority Counsel for the Republican Members of the House Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran. In this capacity he did a great amount of research, deposed numerous witnesses, questioned in open hearings several of these witnesses including Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, and wrote and edited substantial portions of the Committee's final report.

In early 1988 Bob Genzman was selected by President Reagan to serve as United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida. Appointed by President Bush shortly after he took office, Bob was U.S. Attorney for the Middle District until 1993. He supervised 94 attorneys in a 35 county district with offices in Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville and Fort Myers. During his tenure he pioneered the use of the federal criminal law for possession and use of a firearm by a convicted felon to prosecute previously convicted felons serving relatively short sentences in state or county jails so as to get them off the streets and locked up in a federal prison for a lengthy period of time. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh embraced this as a national policy under the name "Operation Triggerlock."

I got to know Bob Genzman quite well while I served as a member of the Iran Contra Committee. He was an excellent counsel for the Committee and struck me as bright, capable, even tempered, gracious and compassionate.

When the office of U.S. Attorney opened, it was a pleasure for me to recommend him for this position. There had been much turmoil in this office, and everyone who worked with Bob Genzman while he was U.S. Attorney says he settled the office down and ran it with great professionalism.

Above all else, Bob Genzman was a family man. He is survived by his wife, Martha; his 5 year old twin children, Rob and Jackie; and his parents, Catherine and Glenn Genzman.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOIS NELSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary senior citizen from Princeton, Texas—Mrs. Lois Nelson—whose success story is worthy of recognition. What makes Mrs. Nelson so extraordinary is that she entered the workforce for the first time in 1982 at the age of 68 and has been active ever since.

In 1982 Mrs. Nelson began working through the Green Thumb program as the site manager for the Senior Citizen's Center in Princeton. As site manager, Mrs. Nelson spent countless hours recruiting members, organizing activities, counseling fellow seniors and distributing food to those less fortunate. Seven years ago, she began her quest to fulfill a lifetime dream—to become a librarian. Mrs. Nelson became an aide in both the elementary and high school libraries. In this capacity, she applied herself to learn and master the skills necessary to be a successful librarian, but she was still lacking one credential—a high school diploma. At the age of 79, Mrs. Nelson returned to the classroom and in April of 1994, received her GED.

On March 1, 1995, as a result of hard work and determination, a dream came true for Mrs. Nelson when she received her County Librarian, Grade 3 Certification. As a librarian for the Princeton Independent School District, Mrs. Nelson not only performed her professional duties but also recruited Green Thumb applicants and GED students, assisted in a community green house project, and helped with the school tax office. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm were never more prevalent than in 1996, when Mrs. Nelson had open-heart surgery. Within six weeks and at the age of 81, she was back at work, fulfilling her official and voluntary duties.

Mrs. Nelson's enthusiasm for life, quest for knowledge, and willingness to give of herself set an example for all of us. In addition to obtaining her GED and receiving her County Librarian Certification, she has been active in a variety of community service efforts. Mrs. Nelson has participated in the 55-Alive class, attended Gang Awareness Inservice and Citizen's Crime class and served as a Pink Lady for the Ladies Volunteer Auxiliary at Columbia Medical Center—all after the age of 75.

In recognition of her exemplary achievements, Mrs. Nelson was nominated for the 1997 Outstanding Older Worker of Texas award. Today I am pleased to announce Mrs. Nelson's selection for Honorable Mention in this statewide search. Mrs. Nelson is living proof that life can be challenging and filled with opportunity, regardless of age.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to this outstanding senior citizen from the Fourth District of Texas. Mrs. Lois Nelson is an inspiration and role model to all Americans.

WESTHILL CHOIR WINS NORTH
AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize publicly the accomplishments of scholastic musicians and singers across the United States, and in particular some of my constituents in Central New York—the winners of the North American Music Festival in New York this spring, Westhill High School Concert Choir.

The choir was awarded First Place with a Superior rating. The Westhill High School Women's Ensemble also was awarded the First Place Trophy with a Superior rating. Members of the Ensemble also belong to the Concert Choir.

I want to congratulate Choral Director William Black for his tireless dedication and talented instruction. I would also ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the participants in such school groups in every district, in every state.

This kind of extracurricular activity nurtures sensitivity for beauty in music and song in young people. I am very proud of the programs which address such an important aspect of education and especially proud of the Westhill participants this year who won the American Music Festival.

They are: Michael Aquayo, Jeffrey Aldrich, Jaime Arnold, Kirstin Axford, Lacey Ballard, Katie Balogh, Jessica Bartle, Betsy Bartle, Nell Beadling, Claire Berkery, Erin Berkery, Katherine Bernstein, Brendan Briedaddy, Megan Brody, Sarah Brody, Kelley Burkett, Melody Calley, John Carpenter, Bryant Carruth, Paul Cella, Margaret Chajka, Michael Cieply, Marie Connell, Heather Cutler, Jessica Diaz, Laura DiSerio, Hilary Donegan, Erin Dowd, Brian Dudiak, Victoria Duffy, Jennifer Ernestine, Catherine Evans, Jennifer Fetter, Kristen Finn, Meghann Finerghy, Jamir Flores, Robert Flynn, Casey Foreman, Megan Foreman, Erin Frost, Rebecca Fullan, Jenelle Gallardo, Nicholas Gambino, Elizabeth Garofano, Manjinder Gill, Stephanie Grosso, Rebekah Guss, Kathleen Guyder, Kelly Hall, Colleen Harrington, Cara Hart, Sheehan Hayes, Benjamin Haynes, Erin Hogan, Julie Howard, Juliana Ingraham, Kristen Ingraham, Jonathan Jackowski, Lyndsay Jesmain, Joelle Kearns, Patrick Keeler, Elizabeth Kelly, Margaret Kelly, Jessica LaFex, Margaret LaFex, Allison Lang, Sara Lange, Meghan Lantier, Colleen Lavin, Marie Lebro, Emily Lemanczyk, Elizabeth Lemmerman, Kimberly Majewicz, Erin McCormick, Meghan McClees, Bryan McMahon, Molly Michaels, Rickard Mulligan, Kelly Murphy, Larissa Murphy, David Mushow, Andrea Nedoshytko, Julie Nichols, Pamela Norton, Colleen O'Brien, William O'Sullivan, Amelia Ott, Emily Ott, Jeffrey Pacelli, Jonathan Patrei, Julie Patriarco, Leah Patriarco, Jason Paussa, Sarah Pelligrini, Ana Pinker, Jessica Pouliot, John Powers, Sarah Quintana, Rebecca